



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

## BRIEFER ARTICLES.

**Living fossils.**—The great flat slab on which we stood seemed built there to command a view of stoneworts.

In the clear lime water of Fall River, S. D., floated great streamers of Chara, fresh and green, yet fading insensibly, first into a dingy, then into a dead looking, and even into a stony mass, as the eye followed it up stream. It was a streamer of living, growing stoneworts that blended into the slabs of “petrified moss” strewn broadcast in the channel around us, and on one of which we stood.

But the eye could trace this so-called living fossil or petrification back still further to the banks overhead, where other stoneworts once floated in waters whose channel was higher than and broader than now. Yet higher still, in an earlier channel, the eye could see great slabs of it, upturned in a railroad cutting.

At our feet, where interposing boulders had reduced the transporting power of the current, a sand bar of broken stems, leaves, and whorls was lying, simply waiting for the “lapidifying juices” to cement it into limestone—a sort of puzzling Chara breccia.

Right here in reach then were all the terms of a botanico-geological stonewort series, a sort of climax, beginning with the perishable, growing plant, and capped by the same built into everlasting rocks and sands.

It only remained for the collector to make his choice, which was done, and the series exposed in a row to dry. The growing stonewort, so fresh and green, became stony, and crumbled at a touch, it was so incrustated with lime salts. So, too, the half-living, half-petrified form fell to pieces, being encrusted just enough to appear stiff and stone-like, yet not enough to last. However, slabs of the “petrified moss” of any desired linear dimensions could be had, and handled with impunity. These ever forming stonewort slabs consisted of a few inches of rigid lithified creek bed, as a stable sort of backing to the stony mat of weeds upon them.

By placing the growing stonewort immediately in glycerine it is easily preserved, and by patience, mixed with a pinch of ingenuity, the whole beautiful and interesting series of living petrifications can be kept.—ERWIN H. BARBOUR, *University of Nebraska, Lincoln.*